A Synopsis of Ph.D.(Enlgish) Thesis Entitled

"The Study of Feminist Consciousness In The Novels Of Margaret Atwood"

:Submitted To:

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Margaret Atwood

Introduction:

Margaret Atwood was born in Ottawa, in 1939. She is the daughter of a forest entomologist and spent part of her early years in the bush of North Quebec. She moved, at the age of seven to Toronto. She studied at the University of Toronto, then took her degree at Radcliffe College, Massachusetts, in 1962.

She is Canada's most eminent novelist and poet also writes short stories critical studies, screenplays and book for children, her works having been translated into over 30 languages. Her reviews and critical articles have appeared in various eminent magazines and she has also edited many books, including "The New Oxford Book of Canadian Verse in English' (1983) and, with Robert weaver, 'The Oxford Book of Canadian Short Stories' in English (1986) She has been a full-time writer since 1972 first teaching English, then holding a variety of academic posts and writer residencies. She was President of the Writers Union of Canada from 1981-82.

Margaret Atwood began to publish her fiction in the late 1960s, when Consciousness Raising was at its height. By the early 1970s, she had published her initial two novels and her

critical manifesto,survival. For example, in 1972, when Atwood published surfacing and survival,

Sheila Rowbotham published Women Resistance and Revolution a landmark feminist text. Throughout her oeuvre, Atwood has tried to raise the public's awareness of women's position in society. In all her novels, Atwood is concerned with women's victimization.

Atwood's novels are examined in a cultural context in this study, which explores the victimization of woman. Victimization includes anything that affects women's survival, specifically victimization through physical, psychological and economic manipulation. Survival is also taken in the broadest sense. It includes both physical and spiritual survival " as anything more than a minimally human being". In Survival, Atwood presents four Basic Victim Positions, "Which includes denying victimization, acquiescing in victimization repudiating victimization and becoming a "Creative Non Victim. Recognition of victimization deals with Atwood's initial two positions, when a victim learns to fight victimization and perhaps, succeeds well enough to live as fully functioning".

"Creative Non-Victim".

Atwood's novels show society sustains victimization by holding power over women. The protagonists of Atwood's novels are not satisfied with their lives, and as they explore the

reasons for their discontent, come to realize that they are the victims of social, economic, and political discrimination. No protagonist is able to avoid being victimized and two of them actually die, but all of them, to a greater or lesser degree, fight against victimization.

Recognition of victimization is present in all Atwood's novels, and is the subject of close focus in **The Edible Women**. The initial step toward recognizing victimization is order standing the imbalance of power in patriarchal society. The recognition process in Atwood's novels begins systematically kept in positions in which they have little power over their own lives. The primary constraint are economic and social although political constraints are examined in **Bodily Harm** and **The Handmaid's Tale** which are Atwood's only novel set mostly outside of candor. The Protagonist find themselves unable to free themselves from discomfiting situation in their lives.Often their careers are severely limited because of their gender.They are prompted to surrender whatever independence they have in order to gain some stability through marriage. Marriage provides the economic security that they customarily can not ensure for themselves by their own effects. They find themselves trapped in a cycle that compels them to surrender to male domination. Patriarchal social economic and political systems prevent them from holding power and especially from their own lives.

Need/Importance/Relevance of Research Work:

The present paper tries to focus upon female consciousness in the novels of Margaret Atwood. It deals with the introduction includes the background of the Canadian Novel and female consciousness in the novels of Margaret Atwood. It illustrates that feminism consciousness is closely related to journey to the interior. There are two options for all, first to live than Ostrich like world of make belief and second is walking into the room to face the reality. While the first would be well comfortable convenient approach, the second one would compel to revise once consciousness believes and attitudes. Atwood is interested in second option and looks for the truth, being conceived that nothing else will do justice to the present situation. Margaret Atwood's novels depict the internal consciousness of women to break all the conventional identities in order to live with freedom. Atwood also show many examples where victim in the novel adopts the path of survival and later enable her identity or self- free from any sort of conventional clutches where women is seen as an object of sexual pleasure of for doing monotonous household works of washing clothes or sweeping floors.

The woman's survival that defines her place as a woman in this world through the novels of Atwood.

Hypothesis:

1. A suggested explanation for a group of facts or phenomena, either accepted as a basic for further verification (working hypothesis) or accepted as likely to the true.
2. An assumption used in an argument without its being endorsed a supposition.
3. The present research intends to review female consciousness in the novels of Margaret Atwood. Here are some of the major issues which can be the major part of the hypothesis of the present study.

1. Each female writers in Canada has contributed in the development and enrichment of Canadian English Literature.
2. Female writers in Canada displays what is there in the female consciousness of every woman in Canada.
3. Female writers today have assumed prominence in the literary and intellectual productions.
4. There is a reflection of intense desire for self identity as the weapon of survival strategy for the successful life in the Petrachan society.
5. We can discover that many authors have been similarly urging and appearing against the violence on women through their writings.

Review of Literature:

It has been observed that most of the research done in this area focus on feminist consciousness. Atwood's best work illuminates, like a flash light in a dim room, the depth and breadth of simple people. She has created fictions centered on the brilliant ant artistic few- **Lady Oracle and Cat's Eye.**

In Atwood's novels, the protagonists struggle to understand why they are dissatisfied with world around them. None of them fit easily into society. They learn to recognize that they are being victimized, and try to deal with the problem. Some barely move beyond recognition of victimization, other attempt rejection and of these some fail, but most survive. They are women,often in typical situation,who refuse to accept what is handed them. They do what they can to fight victimization.

Data Collection:

The data required for the present research will be collected in two ways.

Primary Data:

Primary data will be the novels or plays written by the Margaret Atwood including 'Bodily Harm', 'Active Grace', 'Surfacing', 'Blind Assassin', 'The Handmade's Tale', 'Lady Oracle', 'Robert Bride', 'Oryx and Crake.

Secondary Data:

Secondary data will be collected from the different books, journals, articles, interviews, reviews, critical analysis, web material, News paper, Different reports published on Margaret Atwood.

Primary and Secondary data will also be collected from personal visits to the state level, national international conferences.

Research Methodology:

Critical analysis will be central agenda of the proposal research.

The present research dosen't call for any field work.

Aims and Objectives of the Research:

1. To study the issues pertaining to the contribution of novels of Margaret Atwood in the development of Canadian literature.
2. To explain the term "Consciousness", victimization from the modern and literary point of views.
3. To understand the concept of 'Self-Identity' in the literary contribution of Canadian Literature.
4. To stress the universal problem faced by Canadian female authors in the development of modern society.
5. To explore the New-dimensions for the writings of female authors

Chapterization:

Chapter I	_	Intrduction
Chapter II	_	The Study of feminist consciousness in the novels “Maddaddam and The Blind Assassin”
Chapter III	-	The Handmaid’s Tale and Oryx and Crake
Chapter IV	-	The year of the Flood and Alias Grace
Chapter V	-	The Edible Woman and Cat’s Eye
Chapter VI	-	The Robber Bride and Surfacing, lady Oracle
Chapter VII	-	Conclusion – Atwoods Novel.

Conclusion:

Margaret Atwood has a talent for the conscientious feministic perspective. The tone of her works seems to indicate her sense of political and social responsibility. Her poem 'Spelling' is a testament to the power of words and it depicts the victimization of powerless mute women. Atwood starts it by describing her daughter on the floor, learning how to spell for the first time and then leads the reader through a history of persecuted helpless women. Atwood depicts the woman caught in a war and her thighs are tied together by the enemies, so she could not give birth. Such disturbing portrayals of women have earned Atwood the reputation of a daring feminist.

Probable Date of Research Completion:

The present Research is proposed to be completed within the time as stipulated by the university.

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